

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05741 151456Z
ACTION AF-08

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O 151415Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
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INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5741

USIA FOR IAA DAWSON

DEPT PLEASE PASS CODEL YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ON CONGRESSMEN YOUNG, DIGGS,
CLARK

REF: STATE 300902-C

NOTE: BASIC QUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETING SA PRESS COMMENT:
AFRIKAANS PRESS CONSERVATIVE, PRO-SAG; OPPOSITION ENGLISH-
LANGUAGE PRESS LIBERAL, ANTI-APARTHEID. AFRIKAANS PRESS
CLOSELY TIED TO RULING AFRIKANER NATIONAL PARTY AND THUS
SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM OF SAG POLICIES. OPPOSITION ENGLISH
PRESS GENERALLY WELCOMES ANY CRITICISM IT BELIEVES MAY
ENCOURAGE SAG TO CHANGE RACE POLICIES. TWICE AS MANY
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS SOLD AS AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPERS.
SA BLACKS READ ENGLISH PRESS ESPECIALLY "THE WORLD" WHICH
HAS BLACK EDITOR AND IS AIMED AT URBAN BLACKS IN
JOHANNESBURG AREA.

BEGIN SUMMARY: BOTH FACTIONS SA PRESS CHARACTERIZED
CONGRESSMAN ANDREW YOUNG AS "MODERATE" AND DIGGS AS
"TIRESOME" OR "HOSTILE." BOTH FACTIONS INITIALLY WARY
OF CLARK, BUT PERCEIVED HIM AS "REASONABLE" OR "MORE
REALISTIC" IN LIGHT OF REMAKRS IN DEPARTURE STATEMENT
WHICH WERE PLAYED EDITORIALLY THAT "HE BEGAN TO SEE THE
LIGHT" DURING HIS VISIT. END SUMMARY

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1. YOUNG'S REMARK THAT HE EXPECTED USG TO MAKE IT

"EASIER, NOT MORE DIFFICULT" FOR SA TO EFFECT CHANGE WAS FREQUENTLY AND APPROVINGLY QUOTED. EDITORIALS STRESSED HIS "MODERATE" ATTITUDE AND SOME COMMENTATORS SAW HIM AS "MOST SIGNIFICANT DELEGATE" AT MASERU AAI CONFERENCE. HIS "INFLUENCE" WITH CARTER OFTEN MENTIONED.

2. PRETORIA AFRIKAANS PAPER "OGGENBLAD" DECEMBER 2 SAID: "FROM MASERU WE HEAR THE SAME OLD TALK ABOUT MAJORITY RULE. BUT THIS TIME THERE IS A SPEAKER OF IMPORTANCE. HE IS CONGRESSMAN YOUNG - FRIEND OF MR. CARTER AND THE MAN WHO HELPED SECURE THE BLACK VOTE FOR THE PRESIDENT-ELECT. HIS WORDS SHOULD BE HEeded FOR HE CARRIES MORE WEIGHT THAN BOTH CHARLES DIGGS AND DICK CLARK.HE SPEAKS OF CHANGE AND MAJORITY RULE AS CAUSE AND EFFECT. THERE MUST AND WILL BE CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA, BUT THIS DOES NOT DEPEND ON MAJORITY RULE. MR. YOUNG'S ATTACK ON SOUTH AFRICA WAS DEFINITELY MORE REASONABLE THAN THE ATTACKS BY DIGGS AND CLARK. BUT THEIR PURPOSE IS THE SAME."

3. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS PAPER "DIE TRANSVALER" DECEMBER 3 SAID: "A NUMBER OF AMERICANS ARE REVELING IN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK SOUTH AFRICA FROM MASERU... THUS IT WAS PLEASING TO HEAR THE MORE REASONABLE VOICE OF BLACK CONGRESSMAN YOUNG. HE SAID ONLY THE COMMUNISTS WOULD BENEFIT IF THERE WAS NOT PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE AGREE WITH HIM ON WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM CHAOS, BUT WHEN HE SPEAKS SO LIBERALLY ABOUT MAJORITY RULE, WE BELIEVE HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND OUR POLICY. MORE SERIOUS, HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND AFRICA."

4. PIETERMARITZBURG ENGLISH PAPER "NATAL WITNESS" DECEMBER 3 EDITORIALIZED ON "INTERESTING CONTRAST" BETWEEN YOUNG AND CLARK. PAPER SAID YOUNG BELIEVES IN "FRIENDLY YET FIRM PERSUASION" WHILE CLARK ADVOCATES BLACK MAJORITY RULE "WITH NO QUALIFICATIONS." PAPER DESCRIBED CLARK AS "A MAN WITH A REMARKABLY BLINKERED VIEW OF AFRICAN POLITICS AND CONCLUDED: "OF THE TWO, YOUNG IS CLOSER TO THE PERSON ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE

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FOR USG POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.-MR. CARTER. FOR THE SAKE OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS, WHITE AND BLACK, WE HOPE HIS APPROACH PREVAILS OVER ONE ESPoused BY SENATOR CLARK."

5. POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FLEUR DE VILLIERS, OF MASS CIRCULATION "SUNDAY TIMES," PROFILED YOUNG DECEMBER 5 AND QUOTED HIS REMARK IN MASERU THAT "I DON'T BELIEVE IN PRESSURE. YOU CANNOT FORCE PEOPLE TO DO WHAT THEY DON'T WANT TO DO. INSTEAD WE MUST HELP SOUTH AFRICA

SEE WHAT IS IN HER BEST INTERESTS, THOSE OF THE USA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD." DE VILLIERS ADDED: "FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS FELLOW DELEGATES OF THE AAI CONFERENCE TALKED OF LITTLE ELSE BUT HOW BEST THEY COULD PRESSURE THE HATED COUNTRY ACROSS THE BORDER INTO A PERCEPTION OF REALITY AND MAJORITY RULE. BUT CONGRESSMAN YOUNG IS A SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT BREED OF CAT. NO MATTER WHAT SENATOR CLARK OR CONGRESSMAN DIGGS MIGHT DO, IT IS WHAT YOUNG SAYS THAT WILL COUNT WHEN THE NEW US PRESIDENT FORMULATES HIS SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY."

6. "SUNDAY TIMES" EDITORIALIZED DECEMBER 5: "GENTLE PERSUASION OR SHRILL AND SILLY RHETORIC. THIS IN ESSENCE WAS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TWO AMERICAN VOICES SOUTH AFRICANS HEARD THIS WEEK....THE RHETORIC CAME, AS USUAL, FROM CHARLES DIGGS, A TIRESOME POLITICIAN MORE INTENT ON IMPRESSING A CONSTITUENCY BACK HOME THAN ON MAKING A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS. AND, AS USUAL, THE EFFECT OF MR. DIGGS' DEMANDS WAS MERELY TO STIFFEN WHITE RESISTANCE TO CHANGE. BUT IF MR. DIGGS SUCCEEDS ONLY IN DEAFENING WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS WITH HIS EMPTY CLAMOR THEY SHOULD LISTEN MORE ACUTELY TO THE QUIET VOICE OF FELLOW BLACK CONGRESSMAN YOUNG, WHO SPEAKS TO THE MAN WHO WILL COUNT IN WASHINGTON FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, JIMMY CARTER. MR. YOUNG IS A SOUTHERNER AND A PRODUCT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. AS SUCH HE IS AN IMPLACABLE OPPONENT OF APARTHEID- BUT HE ALSO UNDERSTANDS WHITE FEARS AND KNOWS THAT THE BEST WAY TO DEFUSE THEM IS NOT BY WILD RANTING, BUT THROUGH EFFECTIVE PERSUASION....AND SOUTHERNERS LIKE MR. YOUNG AND MR. CARTER WHO UNDERSTAND UNCLASSIFIED
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THE FORCE OF WHITE PREJUDICES WILL TALK TO PRETORIA IN A LANGUAGE IT UNDERSTANDS."
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